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Indiana State Department of Health

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Vaccine E-Letter # 260 11/16/2007

www.statehealth.in.gov/programs/immunization.htm

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Urges Longer Influenza Immunization Season

According to CDC officials, a record number of doses of Influenza vaccine will be available this year. However, officials are concerned that many adults who are not vaccinated by January 2008 will assume that the danger from influenza has passed and will not seek vaccination.

Most providers run Influenza vaccination programs during October and November, but disease transmission tends to peak in February and can remain high as late as May. CDC is therefore urging providers to extend their Influenza vaccination programs throughout winter and possibly into spring of 2008.

For more information, access the following link:

<http://www.familypracticenews.com/article/PIIS0300707307712896/fulltext#>

Site Visits for Quality Assurance

As a Vaccine For Children (VFC) grantee, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Immunization Program is required to conduct site visits to VFC providers in both public and private sectors. Site visits have two components: VFC and Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and eXchange (AFIX). The purpose of the VFC portion of a site visit is to determine if VFC vaccines are being distributed, handled, and administered in accordance with the laws and policies that govern the VFC program and requires completion of a Site Visit Questionnaire (SVQ)*.

The AFIX portion of a site visit is a Continuous Quality Improvement strategy that consists of 1) assessment of the healthcare provider's vaccination coverage levels using CoCasa [Comprehensive Clinic Assessment Software Application]) and immunization practices, 2) feedback of the results to

the provider along with recommended strategies to improve coverage levels, 3) motivating the provider through incentives to improve vaccination coverage levels, and 4) exchanging healthcare information and resources necessary to facilitate improvement.

The VFC/AFIX process is a necessary step in continuously improving Indiana's immunization rates, in ensuring that vaccinations given are good and valid, and in reducing the burden of vaccine preventable diseases in our state. Site visits are a way for ISDH staff to partner with providers to help them do everything possible to protect their populations.

When the field representative for your region calls to schedule a site visit, please do not turn him or her away. All local health departments and a percentage of all other VFC providers are selected for a visit each year. VFC providers also can request a visit by calling the Assessment Epidemiologist at (317) 233-8857; requests will be filled as time allows.

*The SVQs for 2007 and 2008 are available on the CDC web site at

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/psv-questionnaire.htm>

Pay special attention to the "High Priority Question Key," as compliance to these questions is necessary for adherence to VFC guidelines established by CDC.

Holiday Shipping Changes for VFC Vaccine

Due to upcoming holidays, vaccine shipping will be adjusted to avoid office closures. ISDH will request that McKesson not ship vaccines to arrive on the following dates: November 21 - 23; December 24 - 28; and January 1, 2008.

Children and Hoosiers Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP) Survey – Please Participate

. To complete a satisfaction survey for CHIRP users, please log-in to the CHIRP application at <https://chirp.in.gov> using your log in information and go to the patient search screen, and click on the link above the Patient Search box.

CHIRP User Group Meeting

Call (888) 227-4439 or go to the CHIRP.IN.GOV to register.

December 12, 2007 – MARION COUNTY

9:30AM - Noon CST

Indiana State Department of Health

8th Floor Training Room

2 North Meridian Street

Indianapolis, IN 46202

CHIRP Tip

If you maintain your inventory using the Inventory Management tool built into CHIRP, you no longer have to submit VFC tally sheets. Use of the Inventory Management tool in CHIRP will make ordering and reconciling your inventory quick and easy.

CHIRP Issues

CHIRP was upgraded to a new version this week. Even though the version was tested, there have been three specific problems identified. The programming staff and the vendor are working on a quick solution, but it will not be fixed before Thanksgiving.

- VFC Eligibility issues have now been resolved.
- Reminder/Recall issue for IRMS clients only is ongoing.
- Crashing: CHIRP is having load balancing problems which results in CHIRP going down. Staff continues to monitor this issue, and CHIRP is usually back-up in less than 5 minutes.

Immunizations: A-to-Z Training

To register, contact: Jodi Morgan, Health Educator, 317-650-5051 or email jmorgan@isdh.in.gov

December 10, 2007

9AM-1PM

Delphi Public Library

Gerber Globe-Valve Program Room

Delphi, Indiana

Space is limited, so please register early if you would like to attend this training!

December 13, 2007

9AM-1:30PM

Redi-Care, Inc

2120 N Detroit St

LaGrange, Indiana

Both training events are open to all providers.

Vaccine Q&A

Influenza Vaccine Dosage - Special Situation

What is recommended for 3-year-old children when we don't have the exact dosage of flu vaccine that is needed, i.e., the 0.5 ml formulation? Is it acceptable to administer 2 separate injections of 0.25 ml of the age 6-35 month formulation to accomplish the 0.5 cc dose that is needed? Here is the Q&A from the CDC Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/vaxadmin.htm> that best describes that situation:

If adult inactivated influenza vaccine is not available, can a high-risk adult or a high-risk child receive the pediatric product (thimerosal preservative-free 0.25 ml dose) as long as they are given 0.5 ml?

If an adequate supply of adult formulation is available in the community, CDC does not recommend that providers combine two 0.25 mL doses of pediatric influenza vaccine to vaccinate a single individual who requires a 0.5 mL dose of vaccine. However, if there is not an adequate supply of adult formulation, providers vaccinating high-risk individuals requiring 0.5 mL of influenza vaccine when the provider has only the 0.25 mL prefilled syringes of pediatric vaccine may choose to give two separate injections of the 0.25 mL product to protect the high-risk individual. Providers should never attempt to transfer vaccine from one syringe to another for the purpose of administering only one injection.

Contact Us

For questions and comments, please contact the ISDH Immunization Program at: Immunize@ISDH.IN.gov or 800-701-0704.